



Seventy-Seventh Session
7 – 10 October 2014

EC-77/4
10 October 2014
Original: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

The Chairperson of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger of Uruguay, opened its Seventy-Seventh Session in The Hague at 10:17 on 7 October 2014.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Opening statement by the Director-General
4. Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues
5. General debate
6. Status of implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues
 - (b) Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues
 - (c) Other verification-related issues
 - (d) Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2013
 - (e) Status of implementation of Article VII
 - (f) Status of implementation of Article X
 - (g) Status of implementation of Article XI
 - (h) Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention



- (i) Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria
7. Report of the Scientific Advisory Board
8. Administrative and financial matters:
- (a) Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters
 - (b) Implementation of an enterprise-resource-planning system and establishment of a special fund for this purpose
 - (c) Reduction of the Working Capital Fund
 - (d) Withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012
 - (e) Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, and all items pertaining to this Budget
 - (f) Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2013
 - (g) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor
 - (h) OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2014; cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2014
 - (i) Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions
 - (j) Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets
 - (k) Limit of investments of funds of the OPCW
 - (l) Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2013 to 13 August 2014
 - (m) Proposal for the rehiring of inspectors
 - (n) Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW
 - (o) New interim Staff Rule on independent mediation

9. Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference¹
10. The OPCW Programme for Africa
11. Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities
12. Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
13. Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW
14. Any other business
15. Adoption of the report
16. Closure

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Opening statement by the Director-General

The Council **noted** the opening statement by the Director-General (EC-77/DG.27, dated 7 October 2014).

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Reports by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues

- 4.1 The Vice-Chairpersons and coordinators for clusters of issues reported to the Council on informal consultations held during the intersessional period: Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia on chemical weapons issues, Ambassador Francesco Azzarello of Italy on chemical-industry and other Article VI issues, Ambassador Masaru Tsuji of Japan on administrative and financial issues, and Ambassador Dr Ali Gebril Werfeli of Libya on legal, organisational, and other issues. The Chairperson also reported on his own activities on behalf of the Council during the intersessional period.
- 4.2 The facilitator for the implementation of the verification regime, Ambassador Robert Mikulak of the United States of America, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.
- 4.3 The facilitator for the Secure Information Exchange (SIX) project, Mr Aladdin Al Hamdawi of Iraq, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

- 5.1 The following delegations made statements during the general debate: Italy (on behalf of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China), South Africa (on behalf of the Africa Group), Malaysia, Poland, China, the United States of America, Pakistan, Norway (observer), Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Iraq (observer), France, Cuba (observer), Ukraine (observer), Argentina, India, Belarus, Finland, the Syrian Arab

¹ Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Republic (observer), the Netherlands, Uruguay, Turkey (observer), Germany, New Zealand, Qatar, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Spain, and Senegal.

- 5.2 The Council **welcomed** the investigation done by the Government of Iraq, regarding the use of chlorine by terrorist groups, as reported by the Iraqi delegation, and **further encouraged** the Iraqi Government to report to the Council accordingly other incidents of this kind.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of implementation of the Convention

Subitem 6(a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

- 6.1 Further to a decision by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011), the Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of destruction activities by possessor States Parties (EC-77/DG.23, dated 26 September 2014).
- 6.2 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), the Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the overall progress of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (EC-77/DG.26, dated 6 October 2014).
- 6.3 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the schedule for submission by chemical weapons possessor States of the reports on their destruction activities after the extended deadline of 29 April 2012 (EC-77/DG.19, dated 17 September 2014).

Subitem 6(b): Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and Executive Council decisions on destruction-related issues

- 6.4 The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) briefed the Council on its destruction-related verification activities.
- 6.5 The Russian Federation, the United States of America, Libya, Japan, and China briefed the Council on their destruction-related activities.
- 6.6 The Council **noted** the statements and comments made by States Parties on the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties, recalling the relevant obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), and relevant decisions by the Conference and the Council. The Council **recalled** that the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons by possessor States Parties should continue in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification and with the application of the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.7 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the Russian Federation on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date

(EC-77/P/NAT.1, dated 8 September 2014), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **recalled** that, at its Seventy-Sixth Session, it was informed that, despite measures undertaken by the Russian Federation in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2015 for its destruction activities, “with regard to the Kizner facility, the destruction will continue after 2015”, and, at the same session, the Council “requested the Russian Federation to provide an update to the detailed destruction plan (EC-68/P/NAT.1, dated 3 April 2012) as soon as possible and no later than the Nineteenth Session of the Conference”. Following this request, the Russian Federation provided to the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Council such an update to the detailed destruction plan, which included the amended planned completion date by which the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons is to be completed (EC-68/P/NAT.1/Add.1, dated 6 October 2014). The Council **considered** and **noted** this update. The Council will inform the Nineteenth Session of the Conference about its activities related to the issue.

- 6.8 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by the United States of America on the progress achieved towards complete destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-77/NAT.1, dated 11 September 2014), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of the United States of America that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of September 2023 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11.
- 6.9 Further to the same decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.11), the Council **considered** and **noted** a national paper by Libya on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons, including information on measures to accelerate such progress, and identifying progress made since the last briefing in order to meet the planned completion date (EC-77/NAT.2, dated 12 September 2014), along with comments on the issue as mentioned above. The Council **noted** the information by the Director-General that some consultations have been undertaken for determining the most feasible option for destroying the remaining Category 2 chemicals. The Council **also noted** the confirmation provided by the delegation of Libya that the necessary measures continue to be undertaken in order to meet the planned completion date of December 2016 for its destruction activities, as submitted to the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session in accordance with subparagraph 3(c) of C-16/DEC.11. The Council **requested** the Secretariat to continue working closely with Libya and keep the Council informed of developments.
- 6.10 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General reporting on progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (EC-77/DG.22, dated 24-September 2014).
- 6.11 The Council **noted** a national paper by the Syrian Arab Republic on activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities on its territory (EC-77/P/NAT.3, dated 14 September 2014).

- 6.12 The Council **noted** a national paper by the Syrian Arab Republic containing a detailed destruction plan in respect of the “Al-Maliha” ricin production facility (EC-77/P/NAT.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 6.13 Further to its consideration of this issue at its Forty-Fourth Meeting, the Council **considered** a draft decision on the agreed detailed plan for verification of the destruction of the chemical weapons declared as abandoned by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-44/DEC/CRP.1/Rev.1, dated 8 October 2014), and **decided** to consider the matter further at its next regular session.
- 6.14 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the retention of samples of Syrian chemical weapons (EC-77/S/3, dated 12 September 2014) and **decided** to consider a draft decision on the matter further at its next regular session (EC-77/DEC/CRP.2, dated 12 September 2014).
- 6.15 Further to a decision by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6), a national paper by China (EC-77/NAT.4, dated 29 September 2014) and a national paper by Japan (EC-77/NAT.3, dated 10 September 2014) had been circulated to members of the Council. Bearing in mind the destruction progress was less than expected in the destruction plan attached to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6), while welcoming close cooperation between relevant States Parties, the Council **considered** and **decided** to remain seized of the matter, and **urged** the relevant States Parties to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible in accordance with the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6) in a faithful manner. Both States Parties reaffirmed their effective commitment to the abovementioned decision.
- 6.16 The Council **welcomed** the review of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons conducted by the Third Review Conference and the report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013) relating to abandoned chemical weapons issues. The Council **expressed appreciation** for the first-hand information on the destruction-related progress and the bilateral cooperation of the relevant States Parties obtained through the visit by the delegation of the Council to Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons site, jointly invited by China and Japan, from 9 to 13 September 2013.

Subitem 6(c): Other verification-related issues

- 6.17 The Secretariat briefed the Council on its other verification-related activities.
- 6.18 The Council **noted** a status report of the activities of the Declaration Assessment Team (EC-77/P/S/1, dated 3 October 2014). The following delegations made statements: Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United States of America, Australia (observer), the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

Subitem 6(d): Supplement to the Verification Implementation Report for 2013

- 6.19 The Council **considered** and **noted** the supplement to the Verification Implementation Report (VIR) for 2013 (EC-77/HP/DG.1, dated 12 September 2014).

Subitem 6(e): Status of implementation of Article VII

- 6.20 The Council **received** a verbal report from the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for legal, organisational and other issues, Ambassador Dr Ali Gebril Werfeli of Libya. The Vice-Chairperson informed the Council with regard to the informal consultations held on 24 September 2014, the briefing on the reports of the Director-General on the implementation of Article VII, and the development of an electronic tool developed by the Secretariat to assist States Parties in the development of their national implementing legislations, known as the Legislative Assistance and Support Tool (LAST).
- 6.21 Further to a decision by the Conference at its Fourteenth Session regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations (C-14/DEC.12, dated 4 December 2009), the Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the “Overview of the Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014” (EC-77/DG.5 C-19/DG.6, dated 13 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014); a report by the Director-General on the “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Article VII – Initial Measures” (EC-77/DG.6 C-19/DG.7, dated 13 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014); and a report by the Director-General entitled “Status of Implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 31 July 2014: Additional Measures for States Parties that Possess Industrial Facilities Which Are Declarable Under the Convention” (EC-77/DG.7 C-19/DG.8, dated 13 May 2014 and Corr.1, dated 9 October 2014). The Council **forwarded** the documents to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session.
- 6.22 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator on the implementation of Article VII of the Convention, Dr Zlatko Dimitroff of Bulgaria, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mr Sébastien Braha of France as the new facilitator.

Subitem 6(f): Status of implementation of Article X

- 6.23 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article X of the Convention as at 30 June 2014 (EC-77/DG.3, dated 12 August 2014 and Corr.1, dated 2 October 2014).
- 6.24 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Sarah Broughton of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 6(g): Status of implementation of Article XI

- 6.25 The Council was briefed by Ambassador Dr Gebril Werfeli of Libya, as the Vice-Chairperson on legal, organisational, and other issues on activities on the implementation of Article XI held during the intersessional period. The Council **noted** that the former facilitator (Mr Tariq Karim of Pakistan) circulated, as per paragraph 4.3 of the report of the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014) a first draft of a document entitled “Facilitator’s Informal Document” for further discussions and contributions by delegations. The Vice-Chairperson

encouraged the continuation of informal consultations facilitations, with a view to deliberate and achieve concrete outcomes.

- 6.26 The Council **considered** and **noted** a report by the Director-General on the progress made and review of the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention (EC-77/DG.20 C-19/DG.12, dated 18 September 2014), and **forwarded** it to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session.
- 6.27 The Council **expressed appreciation** for the work done by the facilitator on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, Mr Tariq Karim of Pakistan, and **welcomed** the appointment of Mrs Abeer S. Khalefah of Iraq as the new facilitator.

Subitem 6(h): Progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention

- 6.28 The Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting adopted an action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003). The plan requested the Director-General, inter alia, to submit to the Conference at its regular sessions an annual report on the implementation of the action plan, and to keep the Council regularly informed, so that the Conference and the Council may review progress and monitor its implementation effectively.
- 6.29 The Council **considered** and **noted** the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 16 September 2013 to 15 August 2014, which is being submitted to both the Council and the Conference (EC-77/DG.18 C-19/DG.11, dated 15 September 2014).
- 6.30 The facilitator for this issue, Ambassador Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, reported on the consultations carried out during the intersessional period.

Subitem 6(i): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

- 6.31 The Secretariat circulated the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria containing its key findings (S/1212/2014, dated 10 September 2014 and Corr.1, dated 29 September 2014).
- 6.32 The following delegations made statements: the United States of America, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Thailand (observer), the Russian Federation, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), China, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic (observer), and Cuba (observer).
- 6.33 The Council **requested** the Fact-Finding Mission to continue its work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Report of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 7.1 The report of the Twenty-First Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB-21/1, dated 27 June 2014) was circulated to the members of the Council.

- 7.2 A Note by the Director-General entitled “Response to the Report of the Twenty-First Session of the Scientific Advisory Board” (EC-77/DG.10, dated 5 September 2014) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Administrative and financial matters

Subitem 8(a): Report of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters

- 8.1 At its previous session, the Council noted the report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), which took place from 2 to 5 June 2014 (ABAF-36/1, dated 5 June 2014), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-76/DG.13, dated 24 June 2014). Further to this consideration of the issue, the Council **endorsed** the recommendations contained therein.
- 8.2 The Council **considered** and **noted** the report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the ABAF, which took place from 1 to 4 September 2014 (ABAF-37/1, dated 4 September 2014), and a Note by the Director-General containing comments on the report of the ABAF at that session (EC-77/DG.25, dated 30 September 2014).
- 8.3 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on a nomination for membership of the ABAF (EC-77/S/5, dated 2 October 2014), and **approved** the nomination of Mr Khodayar Rouzbahani of the Islamic Republic of Iran to replace Mr Mahmoud Esfahaninejad, retroactive to the date of his letter of nomination (22 September 2014).

Subitem 8(b): Implementation of an enterprise-resource-planning system and establishment of a special fund for this purpose

- 8.4 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Enterprise-Resource-Planning (ERP) Strategy of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.15, dated 12 September 2014), and **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the implementation of an ERP system and on the establishment of a special fund for this purpose (EC-77/DEC.1, dated 9 October 2014) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

Subitem 8(c): Reduction of the Working Capital Fund

- 8.5 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General recommending the reduction of the WCF and the use of the remaining balance for ERP implementation (EC-77/DG.17, dated 12 September 2014), and **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.2, dated 9 October 2014) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

Subitem 8(d): Withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012

- 8.6 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the request for withholding of the distribution of the cash surplus for 2012 (EC-77/DG.16, dated 12 September 2014), with a view to using it for ERP implementation, and **considered** and **adopted** a decision on the matter (EC-77/DEC.3, dated 9 October 2014) and **transmitted** it to the Conference for approval at its Nineteenth Session.

Subitem 8(e): Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015, and all items pertaining to this Budget

- 8.7 The Council **considered** the Draft Programme and Budget for 2015, which the Director-General had submitted to the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4 (EC-77/CRP.1, dated 4 July 2014), and **transmitted** it to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session, together with its comments and recommendations (EC-77/DEC.4, dated 9 October 2014).
- 8.8 The Council **received** a briefing from the co-facilitator for this issue, Mr Domingos Maria de Saldanha Melo e Alvim of Portugal, on the consultations held with co-facilitator Ambassador Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) during the intersessional period, and **expressed appreciation** for their work.
- 8.9 The Medium-Term Plan for the period from 2015 to 2019 (EC-77/S/1 C-19/S/1, dated 23 April 2014) was circulated to the members of the Council, along with the Draft Programme and Budget for 2015 (EC-77/CRP.1).
- 8.10 A Note by the Secretariat on the programme performance for the year 2013 (S/1185/2014, dated 15 May 2014) was also circulated to the members of the Council.

Subitem 8(f): Financial Statements of the OPCW and the External Auditor's report for the year ending 31 December 2013

- 8.11 The Council **noted** the Financial Statements of the OPCW and the report of the External Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2013 (EC-77/DG.1 C-19/DG.4, dated 14 July 2014) and **forwarded** them to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session. The Council **received** a presentation of the External Auditor's report by his representative, Mr Christian Ahrendt (EC-77/2, dated 8 October 2014).
- 8.12 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Sakiko Hayakawa of Japan, reported on consultations held during the intersessional period.

Subitem 8(g): Status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor

- 8.13 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor (EC-77/S/2, dated 5 August 2014).
- 8.14 The facilitator for this issue, Ms Sakiko Hayakawa of Japan, reported on the consultations held during the intersessional period.

Subitem 8 (h): OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2014; cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2014

- 8.15 The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on OPCW income and expenditure for the financial year to 30 June 2014 (S/1201/2014, dated 22 July 2014).

8.16 The Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session a Note by the Director-General on the cash situation and the use of the Working Capital Fund for the financial year to 31 August 2014 (EC-77/DG.14 C-19/DG.10, dated 10 September 2014).

Subitem 8(i): Status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans to regularise the payment of their outstanding annual contributions

8.17 Further to a decision of the Conference at its Eleventh Session (C-11/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2006), the Council **considered** and **forwarded** to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session a Note by the Director-General on the status of implementation by States Parties of agreed multi-year payment plans (EC-77/DG.8 C-19/DG.9, dated 1 September 2014).

Subitem 8(j): Recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and of losses of assets

8.18 The Council **considered** a Note by the Director-General on the recommendation for write-offs of irrecoverable accounts receivable and losses of assets, and **recommended** that the Conference at its Nineteenth Session approve these write-offs totalling EUR 18,002.95 (EC-77/DG.2 C-19/DG.5, dated 30 July 2014).

Subitem 8(k): Limit of investments of funds of the OPCW

8.19 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the limit of investments of funds of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.4 and Corr.1, both dated 21 August 2014).

Subitem 8(l): Implementation of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts during the period from 14 August 2013 to 13 August 2014

8.20 The Council **noted** a report by the Director-General on the implementation in 2014 of the amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding downward classification of posts (EC-77/DG.9, dated 5 September 2014).

Subitem 8(m): Proposal for the rehiring of inspectors

8.21 At its previous session, the Council noted the background Note from the Secretariat contained in EC-76/S/5 (dated 2 July 2014) regarding the financial and other implications of rehiring former inspectors and also the report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the ABAF (ABAF-36/1) and the views expressed by the Director-General in his opening statement to the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Council (EC-76/DG.18, dated 8 July 2014). Taking into consideration the addendum to the aforementioned background Note (EC-76/S/5/Add.1, dated 26 September 2014), the Council **agreed** to consider this issue further, with a view to examining the possibility of its consideration by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session.

Subitem 8(n): Nomination of the External Auditor of the OPCW

- 8.22 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General containing the summary of nominations for the External Auditor of the OPCW (EC-77/DG.12, dated 8 September 2014), and the observations of the Vice-Chairperson for administrative and financial issues, Ambassador Masaru Tsuji of Japan. The Council **agreed** that the Chairperson would nominate a panel of ambassadors who will evaluate the three candidates for the position of External Auditor of the OPCW, availing itself of technical support if required, in order to enable the Council to make a recommendation to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session.

Subitem 8(o): New interim staff rule on independent mediation

- 8.23 The Council **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the proposed new interim staff rule on independent mediation (EC-77/DG.24, dated 29 September 2014) and **considered** and **adopted** a decision on this matter (EC-77/DEC.5, dated 9 October 2014).

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Follow-up process to the Third Review Conference

- 9.1 The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated Matrix of Actionable Items Identified at the Third Review Conference” (EC-77/S/4, dated 23 September 2014).
- 9.2 A Note by the Director-General on the status of the follow-up to the recommendations on science and technology made to the Third Review Conference (EC-77/DG.11, dated 5 September 2014) was circulated to the members of the Council.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – The OPCW Programme for Africa

The Council **considered** and **noted** a Note by the Director-General on the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (EC-77/DG.21 C-19/DG.13, dated 23 September 2014).

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Draft report of the Executive Council on the performance of its activities

- 11.1 The Council **considered** and **approved** a report on the performance of its activities in the period from 20 July 2013 to 11 July 2014 (EC-77/3 C-19/2, dated 9 October 2014), and **submitted** it to the Conference for consideration at its Nineteenth Session.
- 11.2 A note by the Secretariat entitled “the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People’s Republic of China” was attached to the above-mentioned report.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Report by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Chairperson informed the Council of the status of the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (hereinafter “the Host Country Committee”), including his intention to convene a meeting of the Host Country Committee prior to

the Nineteenth Session of the Conference, with a view to submitting a written report to that session.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW

The Council **considered** and **concluded** an agreement between the OPCW and Georgia on the privileges and immunities of the OPCW (EC-77/DEC.6, dated 9 October 2014).

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Any other business

14.1 The Council **noted** a Note by the Secretariat on the OPCW commemoration of the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons (S/1214/2014, dated 16 September 2014).

14.2 A statement was made by the delegation of Italy on behalf of 52 States Parties to the Convention, including 17 members of the Council, entitled “Statement Regarding Continued Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria” (EC-77/NAT.5, dated 10 October 2014).

14.3 The following delegations spoke in response: the Russian Federation, and the Syrian Arab Republic (observer).

14.4 Statements were also made by Brazil and China.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Adoption of the report

The Council **considered** and **adopted** the report of its Seventy-Seventh Session.

16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Closure

The Chairperson closed the session at 15:52 on 10 October 2014.